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WDZ

14 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meetings on 10, 11 and 12 Nov 58, on Satellite Detection and Surveillance System Development

1. The individuals on the attached roster met, beginning 10 Nov 58, to develop an ARDC position relative to the attached memoranda from the Director of ARPA. The morning and a portion of the afternoon were used by the chief representative from each command element and Center to outline and explain any activities under their cognizance having a bearing on the subject. The general meeting then broke up into committees of the following kind: Current Status Committee, Requirements and Proposed Developments Committee, Organization and Management Committee, and a Committee of "Consultants". I was able to circulate amongst all four.

2. By late afternoon, it had become quite evident that AFBMD had only a minor part to play in organization and management aspects for the following reasons:

a. No current experts were available to AFBMD familiar with the development efforts accomplished to date.

b. The required activities do not dovetail into any of our other work.

c. Most of the effort required will be on the East Coast at AFCRC and at Army and Navy research laboratories.

d. The ARPA letter virtually directs the use of AFCRC as the place to install and operate the system.

e. Many other ARDC activities had made contributions with AFCRC having made a major contribution. To step in and endeavor to "manage" the effort would have created considerable hostility within ARDC.

f. The letter directs the development of an interim filter facility - not a large scale, integrated system design. With such a weak directive, the Air Force can make progress only through the low pressure technique of doing the directed research and development project in a straightforward manner and through avoiding the appearance

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of an aggressive attempt to seize system control. Such an attempt would scare ARPA and would cause the Army and Navy to fight us.

3. The primary requirement expressed in the latter and self-evident to everybody after the briefings is to integrate the Navy Active Minitrack systems (presently being installed near San Diego and Fort Stevens, Georgia) and the Army Deploc system (presently being installed in the central portion of the United States) with the AFCRC filter center and the space track stations so as to collect and process at a single point "non-cooperating" satellite data. AFCRC is outstandingly well qualified to do the field effort required. The result will have primarily an R&D purpose since the capacity of the entire system will be relatively small and the data output will occur much later than the time of actual orbital passage of any satellite.

4. It was decided that active effort should be started by the ARDC to study appropriate filter and control facilities for handling a much larger space population and for processing the resulting data faster. This task will be undertaken by an RDZ project officer. Ultimately it is expected that system control would pass to an office of the Deputy for Electronics in Detachment 1, Wright-Patterson AFB, since it bears a close resemblance to many other communications and data processing systems.

5. November 11th was utilized by the committees to consolidate their findings into a briefing for General Anderson and for General Wilson and others. Briefing was given to Gen Anderson on Wednesday morning. He concurred on every point. It was given to Gens Wilson, Demler, McCorkle and Davis, Dr. George Valley, Admiral Smith of the Air Force SAB, and numerous others on Wednesday afternoon. They also concurred on every point. Admiral Smith being particularly emphatic that a very large degree of cooperation and coordination within ARDC and with the Army and Navy was required.

6. The briefing aids and accompanying speakers notes will be added to this Memo for Record later when they arrive from Hq ARDC, Andrews AFB.

SIGNED

4 Incls
1. List of Personnel
2. Memo fr ARPA, Nov 5, 58 "Satellite Detection and Surveillance System Dev" to ARDC
3. Memo fr ARPA, undtd to NRL, subj as abv
4. Management and Organization

WILLIAM A. SHEPPARD
Colonel, USAF
Asst Deputy Commander
Military Space Systems

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